

of \$47 billion was appropriated during the session, representing a cut of about \$2.5 billion from estimates submitted by the Administration. Largest cut was made in the Defense Budget, \$1 billion. Congress increased the Agriculture fund request by \$24 million and the sum for Health, Education and Welfare by \$11 million. Included in the total was the foreign aid appropriation, which was among the last bills considered before adjournment.

Housing Act of 1954: Adjusted provisions for loans and mortgages for federal housing programs, authorized construction of 35,000 low-rent public housing units before June 1955 in communities where homes are needed in connection with slum clearance projects.

Farm Program: Major legislation included provision for flexible supports, 82.5 to 90 per cent of parity on basic crops, 75 to 90 per cent on dairy products; authorized Secretary of Agriculture to pay wool price supports to producers for four years from customs duties on imported wool.

Debt Ceiling: Raised borrowing power of federal government \$6 billion, from \$275 to \$281 billion for fiscal year of 1955.

Social Security: Extended coverage to 10 million persons, including farm operators, some professional and farm workers. Permitted coverage on a voluntary basis to clergymen and state and local government workers. Increased benefits, raised taxes to cover the increases.

Subversive Control: The bill stripping the Communist Party of all legal rights and denying Government bargaining services to unions and business groups which are "Communist infiltrated," which was passed enthusiastically by Congress during the closing days of the session, did not have Administration backing. Key measures enacted in the Administration's anti-Communist program included: Authorization of Federal judges to grant immunity from prosecution to witnesses before Congressional investigating committees; increases in penalties for harboring or concealing persons from arrest; making it a crime to jump bail; tightening espionage and sabotage laws and permitting the death penalty for peacetime spying; stripping U. S. citizenship from convicted Communists, and denying pensions to any Federal worker convicted of a felony.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. R. 8860: Extension of the Trade Agreements Act for three years, incorporating some proposals of the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy. No action.

H. R. 9666: Reclassification of hardboard in tariff schedule, which would have resulted in 100 per cent tariff increase. Passed House July 30, 1954. Senate Finance Committee directed Tariff Commission to study the industry and report to the Committee in January 1955.

H. R. 6584: Setting up new standards for the valuation of imports. Passed House July 26, 1953. No action in Senate.

H. R. 8355: Authorizing the President to suspend some provisions of the Buy American Act. No action.

H. R. 3575: Hawaii and Alaska Statehood. House passed Hawaii statehood bill March 10, 1953. Senate attached Alaska statehood provision to Hawaii bill. No action on revised bill by House.

S. 2413: Home Rule for the District of Columbia.

Reported by Senate Committee. No action in either house.

Congressional Procedure: Senate and House committees held hearings on proposed codes of procedure for Congressional investigating committees. No action in either house.

Executive Agreements: S. 3067: Required that international agreements other than treaties entered into by U. S. be transmitted to Senate Foreign Relations Committee within 30 days after being executed. Reported by Senate Committee. No action.

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THE NATIONAL VOTER

Vol. IV

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MRS. JOHN G. LEE, President

Editors: MRS. ALEXANDER GUYOL
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★ CONGRESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT ★

TRADE: Senate Finance Committee hearings on **H. R. 1** * will continue through March 18. This bill, passed by the House Feb. 18, would extend the President's authority to enter into trade agreements and authorize him to make gradual reductions in some tariff rates. A group of 17 Senators have proposed an amendment which would place quota limitations on the importation of residual fuel oil, and say that if the Committee takes no action they will carry this proposal to the floor. Other amendments providing protection for special groups are also being sent to the Committee. **H. R. 3108**, introduced by Rep. Elliott (D., Ala.), and eight other identical House bills propose quota limitations on imports of residual fuel oil. All referred to House Ways and Means Committee.

S. 777, introduced by Sen. Capehart (R., Ind.), would authorize the Tariff Commission to adjust import duties to provide protection from foreign imports for the domestic glassware industry. Referred to Senate Finance Committee. **H. R. 3245**, sponsored by Rep. Bray (R., Ind.), is an identical bill and was sent to the House Ways and Means Committee.

S. 751, introduced by Senators Humphrey (D., Minn.) and Kennedy (D., Mass.), provides for federal assistance to communities, industries, business enterprises, and individuals to ease adjustments made necessary by the trade policies of the United States. Referred to the Senate Finance Committee. (See Feb. 1 NATIONAL VOTER for House bills.)

BUY AMERICAN: **H. R. 728**, introduced by Rep. Smith (D., Miss.), and **H. R. 1792**, introduced by Rep. Frelinghuysen (R., N. J.), would permit the President to suspend some provisions of the Buy American Act if a foreign country does not discriminate in favor of its own nationals as against U. S. nationals in purchase of supplies for public use. Referred to the House Committee on Public Works.

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT SECURITY: Hearings on **S. J. Res. 21**, sponsored by Sen. Humphrey (D., Minn.), which would create a Commission on Government Security, began March 8 before a Subcommittee of the Senate Government Operations Committee. The proposed Commission would conduct a bipartisan study of the government's over-all security system.

CODES OF PROCEDURE FOR COMMITTEE HEARINGS: House Rules Committee reported, March 8, **H. Res. 151** to amend the House Rules to provide a code of fair procedures for House Committees. The bill would rule out one-man hearings; witnesses would be given prior notice of scope of inquiry and would have right to counsel; third persons would have opportunity to defend themselves. No enforcement provisions. Early House action is expected.

SINGLE APPROPRIATION BILL: **S. Con. Res. 15**, introduced by Sen. Byrd (D., Va.) and 46 other Senators, would consolidate appropriations for each fiscal year in one general bill. Referred to Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

ITEM VETO: **S. J. Res. 52**, introduced by Sen. Byrd (D., Va.), proposes a constitutional amendment allowing Congress to give the President authority by statute to veto some items in appropriation bills. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

H. J. Res. 55, introduced by Rep. Keating (R., N. Y.), and **H. J. Res. 238**, introduced by Rep. Bennett (D., Fla.), propose a constitutional amendment granting the President direct authority to veto items in general appropriations.

* Indicates League support

Where Will You Be at 4, 4/3?

Listening, we hope, to NBC's radio program "Week-end." If you tune in at 4:00 p.m. (EST) on Sunday, April 3, you'll hear the League's five-minute spot on this program.

FOREIGN AID ISSUES—Cont'd

ects abroad. The problems of whether development funds should be made available from public or private sources, and whether they should be in the form of grants or loans, are involved. The Administration has stated a preference for the maximum use of private resources. The latest U. S. move to this end has been the announcement that we will support the proposed subsidiary of the International Bank, a \$100 million International Finance Corporation. This Corporation would make loans to private industries in less developed countries. It would be financed initially by sale of securities to private investors as well as by government purchases. The United States has indicated that it will subscribe \$35 million for the Corporation's establishment and the President's proposed budget provides for this sum.

While the International Finance Corporation is generally accepted as a desirable new agency, it cannot meet some basic needs of underdeveloped countries. This is reflected in the continued push by many members of the U. N. in behalf of the proposed Special U. N. Fund for Economic Development. SUNFED, to be financed at the start by voluntary contributions of member countries of about \$250 million, would make low-cost loans or grants for basic capital development projects—such as roads, ports, schools, hospitals—where bankable interest-bearing loans may not be possible.

This is the kind of fund that President Eisenhower has stated the United States would support when armaments can be reduced. Many private groups are prepared to back a SUNFED now regardless of continuing armament costs, as a necessary and modest deterrent to the causes of increasing world tensions.

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